

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY EA/IMS WSHEPARD

APPROVED BY EA/IMS ECINGRAHAM

SCA/SCS:RAMCKENZIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, SN

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF REFEREND ROBERT FERGUSON FROM
SINGAPORE

1. DEPT HAS BEEN CALLED BY REV. WADE COGGINS, OF
EVANGELICAL FOREIGN MISSIONS ASSOCIATION, CONCERNING
ALLEGED CANCELLATION BY SINGAPORE IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES
OF REV. ROBERT EARL FERGUSON'S WORK PERMIT IN DECEMBER.
ACCORDING TO COGGINS, FERGUSON, A MINISTER OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CHURCH, WAS GIVEN 30 DAYS TO LEAVE
SINGAPORE BY THE IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES, AND DID IN FACT
LEAVE DECEMBER 24, RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES WITH
HIS FAMILY.

2. COGGINS STATES THAT DECEMBER 22 LETTER FROM VICE
CONSUL BIDDICK TO FERGUSON NOTED THAT IMMIGRATION
AUTHORITIES WERE "UNWILLING" TO DISCUSS THE CASE OR THE
REASONS FOR THE ACTION. HE ADDS THAT BIDDICK ALSO CALLED
FERGUSON JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE DECEMBER 24, TO SAY
THAT THE EXPULSION ORDER HAD BEEN REVERSED AS AN ERROR,
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AND THAT POSSIBLY THE ENTIRE MATTER HAD BEEN A CASE OF

MISTAKEN IDENTITY. HOWEVER, SINCE HE WAS LITERALLY ON HIS WAY TO THE AIRPORT AND HAD SOLD HIS PROPERTY (CAR, ETC.), FERGUSON PROCEEDED TO LEAVE SINGAPORE.

3. COGGINS ASKS ON BEHALF OF HIS ASSOCIATION AND ON BEHALF OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CHURCH, FOR A FULLER ACCOUNT OF THE EXPULSION. IF IT WAS NOT AN ERROR WHAT PRECISELY WERE THE REASONS FOR THE EXPULSION? IF AN ERROR WAS MADE ARE THERE REASONABLE ASSURANCES THAT A NEW WORK PERMIT UOULD BE ISSUED FOR FERGUSON TO RETURN AND CONTINUE HIS WORK? ACCORDING TO COGGINS, BOTH FERGUSON AND THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OF HIS CHURCH WOULD CONSIDER THIS IF APPROPRIATE ASSURANCES RECEIVED FROM GOS AUTHORITIES.

4. PLEASE FURNISH ANY INFORMATION YOU HAVE ON THIS CASE, INCLUDING ACCOUNT OF ANY REPRESENTATIONS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN MADE ON FERGUSON'S BEHALF. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 06 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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To: SINGAPORE
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